GILLAN: THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD ROUTES

IAN GILLAN. Born at Hounslow in Middlesex on 19th August 1945. In September 1962, he joined his first group, The Moonshiners, a locality youth club venture, but 3 months later accepted an offer to front Hayes-based semi-pro outfit, The Javelins. Fame and fortune seemed just around the corner when they followed the Rolling Stones into a residency at the Station Hotel in Richmond but after only localised success they fizzled to a halt in March 1964. After a few weeks leading The Hickies, an R&B band he'd put together to fulfil The Javelins' contracted gigs, Gillan skipped off to join the Harrow-based six piece Wainwright's Gentlemen... but although he sang with them for a year, his memories of the period are hazy - partly because he never socialised with them. A chance to join recording group Episode Six presented itself in May 1965 and, since he'd lost his day job and was now "fully pro", he jumped at it. (Brian 'Sweet' Connolly got his old gig).

JET HARRIS AND THE JET BLACKS

July 1962 to September 1962. This was Mick Underwood's first professional gig, although he'd been in 3 local groups: the Dominators with Ritchie Blackmore, the Satellites, the Crescents with Harvey Hinsley. Jet Harris had left The Shadows in April 1962 and was promoting his hit single 'The man with the golden arm'. The bulk of the gigs was a national package tour starring Little Richard

JET HARRIS — 6 string bass and vocals
DAVE QUINCEY — sax
GLEN HUGHES — sax
BARRY LOVEGROVE — guitar
TERRY WEBSTER — bass
MICK UNDERWOOD — drums

Subsequently teamed up with ex-Shadow Tony Meehan

SAVAGES #4

May 1962 to October 1962. Screaming Lord Sutch had had more musicians go through his bands than John Mayall and Frank Zappa put together. This line-up caused much excitement on the rock-starved, pre-Beatles/Stones provincial circuit and was a launch-pad for Ritchie Blackmore, who had previously been in the Dominators and Mike Dee & the Jaywalkers (aka Condors).

RITCHIE BLACKMORE — guitar
LORD SUTCH — vocals
CARLO LITTLE — drums
RICKY BROWN — bass
ANDY WREN — piano

Still fronts his latest Savages — after twenty years!

EPISODE SIX #1

October 1963 to May 1965. Evolved from two Harrow County School groups, The Madisons and The Lightnings, and club work. "It was supposed to be our big break, but turned out to be a terrible sweat-shop thing, of course." Their recording deal gave them a royalty of ¾ of one per cent.... to be shared six ways!

GRAHAM CARTER — guitar/vocals
SHEILA CARTER — organ/vocals
TONY LANDER — lead guitar
HARVEY SHIELDS — drums
ROGER GLOVER — bass/vocals
ANDY ROSS — vocals, quit

After two tracks on 'Live at The Vortex', Bernie Torme signed with Jet, releasing a single, 'Im not ready'/'She's so free' (JET 126 · Oct 78), and an EP: 'Weekend'/'Secret service'/'Instant impact'/'All night' (JET 137 · Feb 79). Since joining Gillan he has issued solo Singles on Fresh, 'All day and all of the night'/'What's next' (Fresh 7) and Island, 'The Beat'/'I want' & 'Bony Maronie' (WIP 6586 · 1980).

OUTLAWS #3

October 1962 until April 1964. Worked as Joe Meek's studio musicians, backing the likes of John Leyton and Heinz. Also cut 4 singles of their own, gigged like crazy and backed US visitors Jerry Lee Lewis and Gene Vincent. The wild boys of pop!

MICK UNDERWOOD — drums
CHAS HODGES — bass/vocals
KEN LUNDGREN — guitar/vocals
RITCHIE BLACKMORE — lead guitar

Deep Purple became one of the most popular and influential heavy metal bands in the world. That they ever got off the ground in the first place was something of a miracle. Here, in a nutshell, is what happened: Tony Edwards, who had a family textile business, and John Colletta, an advertising consultant, decided to finance and manage a pop group: "We were very green... we knew there was money in the business, but we didn't know how much". Edwards had been introduced to Chris Curtis, former drummer with the Searchers, who had convinced him that he'd be an ideal front man for a hot new band. They approached Ritchie Blackmore, then a temporarily lapsed legend living in Germany, and Jon Lord, then Keyboard player in the Flowerpot Men - but Ritchie returned to Germany after deciding the idea was unworkable. At this point, Chris Curtis became a little too eccentric for comfort and slipped out of the picture, leaving Lord to pull a group together. Lord talked Blackmore into returning and the latter suggested they bring in Bobby Woodman, a legendary drummer from the early British rock days. (He'd been with Vince Taylor & The Playboys). Dave Curtis, former leader of The Tremors (3 singles on Philips between mid 63 and mid 64), came in as vocalist and Nick Simper, a mate of Lords from the Flowerpot Men, came in on bass. They were ready to start.

EPISODE SIX #2

May 1965 to September 1967. This line-up cut 5 Singles for Pye - none charted despite heavy plugging on pirate radio. Their stock-in-trade was melodic ballads with lavish harmonies, but without a hit they were forced to work abroad, especially in Germany and the Lebanon. Ian: "When we returned from Beirut, we had 3 Singles in their top ten - a taste of stardom!"

GRAHAM CARTER — guitar/vocals
SHEILA CARTER — organ/vocals
TONY LANDER — lead guitar
ROGER GLOVER — bass/vocals
IAN GILLAN — vocals
HARVEY SHIELDS — drums, songwriting

Before joining the Ian Gillan Band, Colin Towns had been in a pub rock outfit called Kelly's Eye and was almost in Greenslade - except that they never managed to get gigging again. Whilst with Gillan he made a solo album for Virgin: 'FULL CIRCLE' (V 2093 · Mar 78). Was originally a songwriter.

OUTLAWS #4

April 1964 to June 1965. Leaving Joe Meek, who by this time was becoming a little strange, they tried to maintain their popularity - but the gig circuit had been swamped by Mersey and R&B invaders and they decided to split for pastures new.

MICK UNDERWOOD — drums
HARVEY HINSLEY — lead guitar, now in Hot Chocolate
CHAS HODGES — bass/vocals, now in Chas & Dave
KEN LUNDGREN — guitar/vocals, now in Canada

EPISODE SIX #3

September 1967 to July 1968. Two more singles flopped as they saw their musical style growing ever more archaic. "When heavier music came into vogue, we played our usual stage set, but with the volume turned up beyond pain level!" Instead of concentrating on cover versions, they began to originate their own material - with Gillan and Glover collaborating on new Songs.

GRAHAM CARTER — guitar/vocals
SHEILA CARTER — organ/vocals
TONY LANDER — lead guitar
ROGER GLOVER — bass/vocals
IAN GILLAN — vocals
JOHN KERRISON — drums, left the band

The HERD

June 1965 to June 1966. This was the embryonic pre-Frampton, pre-hit Herd. Underwood replaced the original drummer, Tony Chapman. Cut two Singles for Parlophone, 'Really Saying Something' and 'So Much In Love') and gigged all over Britain. Mick reckoned he'd had enough of the rock biz and got himself a job.

MICK UNDERWOOD — drums
ANDY BOWN — bass
TERRY CLARK — vocals
GARY TAYLOR — guitar
LEWIS RICH — organ

The Herd finally broke through with a hit in Oct '67

ROUNDABOUT

Feb - Mar 68. Provided with equipment and accommodation, they began to rehearse - but Woodman and Curtis were found lacking and slipped off the family tree at this point. A search for replacements ended with the appearance of Rod Evans and Ian Paice - both previously members of The Maze. Content at last they worked up a strong set - using Vanilla Fudge as a model.

NICK SIMPER — bass/vocals
RITCHIE BLACKMORE — guitar
JON LORD — keyboards
BOBBY WOODMAN — drums, replaced
DAVE CURTIS — vocals
CHRIS CURTIS — vocals

Formed Bodast with Steve Howe

EPISODE SIX #4

July 1968 to July 1969. A switch to Chapter One Records failed to ignite any fresh Sparks and as the group's prospects waned they began to consider alternative options. When Ritchie Blackmore told him Deep Purple needed a new vocalist, Mick Underwood suggested he check out Gillan, who was promptly co-opted along with Glover, who was recruited as much for his songwriting skill as his bass-playing. Their ranks decimated, Episode Six fell to pieces.

GRAHAM CARTER — guitar/vocals
SHEILA CARTER — organ/vocals
TONY LANDER — lead guitar
MICK UNDERWOOD — drums
IAN GILLAN — vocals
ROGER GLOVER — bass/vocals

During his fifty months in Episode Six, Gillan sang on nine singles:

Put yourself in my place / That's all I want	Pye 7N 17018	Jan 66
I hear trumpets blow / True love is funny	7N 17110	Apr 66
Here, there and everywhere / Mighty Morris Ten	7N 17147	Aug 66
Love, hate, revenge / Baby, baby, baby	7N 17244	Feb 67
Morning dew / Sunshine girl	7N 17330	Jun 67
I can see through you / When I fall in love	7N 17376	Oct 67
Little one / Wide smiles (Issued as The Episode)	MGM 1409	May 68
Lucky Sunday / Mr Universe	Chapter One CH 103	Oct 68
Mozart versus the rest / Jak d'or	CH 104	Feb 69

Through Les Reed, owner of Chapter One, they contributed to the soundtrack of 'Les Bicyclettes de Belsize' in March 1969. Four Episode Six Singles were issued in USA - all on different labels

DEEP PURPLE #1

Mar 68 to July 69. A few days after a warm up tour of Scandinavia (first gig at Tastrup, Denmark on 20th April), they changed their name to Deep Purple. Their first album was cut in 18 hours, on 4 track - but it was a US smash, as was 'Hush', which reached #4 on the Singles chart. Made 2 extensive, American tours followed by a concentrated European assault.

RITCHIE BLACKMORE — guitar
JON LORD — keyboards
IAN PAICE — drums
NICK SIMPER — bass/vocals
ROD EVANS — vocals

Warhorse — Captain Beyond

EPISODE SIX #5

July 1969 to September 1969. Before Ian joined Deep purple, he and Mick Underwood had been plotting a new heavier sounding band.... but now Episode Six attempted to pick up the pieces. Pete Robinson, who Mick had played with briefly in the James Royal Set, came in, together with John Gustafson, but there was no spirit left in this group and it broke up without playing another gig. The Carters resurrected a new Episode Six and toured abroad.

MICK UNDERWOOD — drums
PETE ROBINSON — Keyboards
JOHN GUSTAFSON — bass/vocals
GRAHAM CARTER — guitar/vocals
SHEILA CARTER — vocals
TONY LANDER — guitar

Formed Ian Gillan Band

Singles released by Deep Purple #2 included:

Hallelujah / April (Part one)	HAR 5006	7/69
Black night / Speed King	HAR 5020	5/70
Strange kind of woman / Im alone	HAR 5033	2/71
Fireball / Demon's eye	HAR 5045	10/71
Never before / When a blind man cries	PUR 102	3/72
Woman from Tokyo / Super trouper	PUR 112	2/73
Smoke on the water / Tokyo / Child	PUR 132	4/77
New live and rare (EP)	PUR 135	10/77
Black night / Speed King	HAR 5210	8/80

Black night was the only single to reach the American Hot 100: it climbed to #66 in May 70.

DEEP PURPLE #2

July 69 to June 73. This line-up, generally reckoned to be the best, rocketed to a peak of commercial activity by working relentlessly. Cut Six albums, two of which topped the UK charts, and toured the world - achieving massive acclaim, particularly in America and Japan. Inevitably, the initial magic dissolved as frictions developed. Gillan gave his notice in Oct 72 but was persuaded to delay his departure. Final gig: Koseinenkin Hall, Osaka, Jun 29th.

IAN GILLAN — vocals, eventually to Rainbow
ROGER GLOVER — bass/vocals
RITCHIE BLACKMORE — guitar
JON LORD — keyboards
IAN PAICE — drums

"My only memories of Deep Purple are happy ones ....there was never any real animosity between Ritchie Blackmore and me.

Deep Purple #2, featuring Ian Gillan on vocals, released a total of 6 albums:

CONCERTO FOR GROUP AND ORCHESTRA	SHVL 767	Jan 1970	# —	UK · # 149 US
DEEP PURPLE IN ROCK	SHVL 777	Jun 1970	# 4	UK · # 143 US
FIREBALL	SHVL 793	Sept 1971	# 1	UK · # 32 US
MACHINE HEAD	TPSA 7504	April 1972	# 1	UK · # 7 US
MADE IN JAPAN (live double album)	TSP 351	Dec 1972	# 16	UK · # 6 US
WHO DO WE THINK WE ARE	TPSA 7508	Feb 1973	# 4	UK · # 13 US

Compilation albums featuring tracks by Deep Purple #2 (UK releases only):

24 CARAT PURPLE	TPSM 2002	May 1975	Strangely, none
POWERHOUSE	TPS 3510	Jan 1978	charted - except
SINGLES: As & Bs	SHSM 2026	July 1978	'Deepest', a TV
THE MARK 2 PURPLE SINGLES	TPS 3514	Jun 1979	advertised album,
DEEPEST PURPLE: THE VERY BEST OF	EMTV 25	July 1980	which reached #1.

DEEP PURPLE #3

June 1973 to May 1975. After recruiting new vocalist David Coverdale ("they accepted me on the strength of one night's singing and a rubbish tape"), they resumed their hectic schedule - maintaining their popularity until Blackmore threw in the towel to start a family tree of his own.

RITCHIE BLACKMORE — guitar
JON LORD — keyboards
IAN PAICE — drums
GLENN HUGHES — bass/vocals
DAVID COVERDALE — vocals

formed Rainbow

QUATERMASS

September 1969 until April 1971. A blowing band which could have made it, given the breaks. Cut one album, 'QUATERMASS' (Harvest SHVL 775 · May 70), and did a shoestring tour of the states. Suffered from lack of business support and fizzled out as a result.

MICK UNDERWOOD — drums
PETE ROBINSON — keyboards
JOHN GUSTAFSON — bass/vocals, had been in The Big Three & The Merseybeats

Sessions

PEACE

Aug to Dec 1971. Did various one nighters and a tour with Molot, but there was pressure on Rodgers to reform Free - which he eventually decided to do. They recorded several tracks but only one ever surfaced - on 'THE FREE STORY' (Island ISLD 4 · Mar 74). Split up.

MICK UNDERWOOD — drums
PAUL RODGERS — guitar/vocals
STEWART MacDONALD — bass, ex-Killing Floor

Returned to Free, then to Bad Company

IAN GILLAN BAND

Sept 75 to June 78. Originally going to be called Shangrenade, they went to Munich to cut 'CHILD IN TIME' (Oyster 2490 136 · July 76). Signed with Island and cut 2 albums: 'CLEAR AIR TURBULENCE' (ILPS 9500 · April 77) and 'SCARABUS' (ILPS 9511 · Oct 77). First toured UK in April 77. Huge in Japan, where they recorded 'LIVE AT BUDOKAN, Vols 1 & 2' (not issued here). Band were seasoned session players capable of any style - so there was no unified growth.

IAN GILLAN — vocals
COLIN TOWNS — keyboards
JOHN GUSTAFSON — bass, reverted to session work
RAY FENWICK — guitar
MARK NAUSEEF — drums, now in G-Force
MICKEY LEE SOULE — keyboards, replaced by Towns after first gigs in May 76.

DEEP PURPLE #4

June 75 to Mar 76. Recorded final studio album and embarked on a 5 month world tour encompassing Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Hong Kong, America & Europe. On completion, it was decided to knock the group on the head..... not because of musical or personality clashes but because "their talents had outgrown Purple". Officially known as "the worlds loudest band".

DAVID COVERDALE — vocals
TOMMY BOLIN — guitar
JON LORD — keyboards
IAN PAICE — drums
GLENN HUGHES — bass/vocals

formed own group — reformed Trapeze

All Deep Purple albums went gold; two went platinum.

SAMMY

Jan to Dec 1972. Put together by Underwood and managed by Howard & Blaikley, who had previously run with The Herd. Cut one album: 'SAMMY' (Philips 6308 136 · Sept 72). Mick, who realised that the band wasn't quite right, admitted his error and withdrew - at which point they collapsed. Mick then did sessions and almost formed a band with Mike Harrison.

MICK UNDERWOOD — drums
GEOFF SHARKEY — guitar/vocals
KEITH GEMMELL — sax
PAUL SIMMONS — bass
MICK HODGKINSON — organ

All these guys appear to have vanished completely

SPLIT KNEE LOONS

Jan 77 to Aug 78. Contrary to circumstantial evidence, McCoy played in no bands other than this heavy metal outfit. Formerly contenders on the London pub circuit, their conviction was misinterpreted as parody after McCoy shaved his head. Still going with new members, but now reduced to playing cocktail lounges up North.

JOHN McCOY — bass
COSMO TOONS — piano/voc
WAH WAH WATKINS — guitar
STIX McCOY — drums
ARTHUR GUITAR — guitar

Left to form his own group, the Hamster Cage Ensemble

PAICE ASHTON & LORD

Aug 76 to Sept 77. A supergroup which somehow failed to take off. Their unremarkable existence was marked by one album ('Malice in Wonderland') and a 20 date European tour - during the course of which Ashton managed to fall off the stage and into the orchestra pit. Split up.

BERNIE MARSDEN — guitar
TONY ASHTON — keyboards
PAUL MARTINEZ — bass
JON LORD — keyboards
IAN PAICE — drums

sessions and producing — Sessions

STRAPPS

Nov 74 to May 79. Launched with a rope/leather/bondage image which didn't particularly appeal to Mick or the public at large. Released two albums: 'STRAPPS' (Harvest SHSP 4055 · May 76) and 'SECRET DAMAGE' (SHSP 4064 · Apr 77). Two more albums were recorded for issue in Japan, where they enjoyed a considerable following. Had potential, but couldn't crack it.

ROSS STAGG — vocals, went back to Australia
NOEL SCOTT — keyb'd, quit music
JOE READ — bass, to Bram Tchaikovsky
MICK UNDERWOOD — drums
GARY GRAINGER — guitar, to Rod Stewart band

During his Purple period, Ian Gillan enjoyed great success as Jesus Christ on the original recording of 'JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR' (MCA MKPS 2011/2 · Dec 71 · #6). On Oct 16th 1975, he appeared in the stage version of 'Butterfly Ball' at the Albert Hall (taking over from the indisposed Ronnie Dio, who'd made the album). In the main, he confined his activities to his investments - Kingsway Recording Studios, a hotel, & a motor cycle business - before returning to the music scene in September 75.

WHITESNAKE #1

Jan to July 78. With Britain gripped by New Wave fever, Coverdale opted for a low profile tour of Smallish venues - starting at Nottingham's Sky Bird Club on 23rd February. Post-Purple contractual tangles had prevented him from doing live work and he was delighted to return: "it was like cutting off a junkie's heroin supply" The first Whitesnake album, 'North Winds', was a session affair cut before the group's formation. This line-up cut only an EP: 'Snake Bite'.

PETE SOLLEY — keyboards, replaced
BRIAN JOHNSTON — keyboards, now a hot-shot producer
DAVID COVERDALE — vocals
BERNIE MARSDEN — guitar
MICK MOODY — guitar
NEIL MURRAY — bass
DAVID DOWLE — drums

BERNIE TORMÉ

Mar 77 - May 79. When his group The Urge split up in 1976, Bernie left Dublin for London, where he played in a couple of pub bands before forming Scrapyard, and then this group. Signed with Jet (see above).

PAUL SPALDING — bass, Original Mirrors
MARK HARRISON — drums, The Nips
BERNIE TORMÉ — guitar/vocals

GILLAN #1

Aug 78 to May 79. Originally put together to play the Reading Festival on 27th August, after which Pete Barnacle came in on drums. Toured Europe, Germany and Japan. Recorded one album, 'GILLAN', which sold well in the Orient but wasn't issued in Britain. Over Christmas 1978, Gillan patiently listened to Ritchie Blackmore's 4 day discourse on why they should re-unite. (Ronnie Dio had just left Rainbow and no suitable replacement had been located) but ultimately rejected the suggestion to pursue his own goals. Scrapped new recordings when band changed.

IAN GILLAN — Vocals
COLIN TOWNS — keyboards
JOHN McCOY — bass
STEVE BYRD — guitar, sessions
PETE BARNACLE — drums, replaced, Now in Broken Home
LIAM GENOCKY — drums, joined Gerry Rafferty, now doing sessions

WHITESNAKE #2

Aug 78 to July 79. Lord arrived to solidify the keyboard department and they embarked on a rather more ambitious UK tour (Oct/Nov 78), neatly timed to avoid any correlation with the release of a second album, 'Trouble' (Dec 78). Toured the world and worked their way back to top-flight status. A second album by this line-up - 'Love hunter' - was in the can when Dowle made his "amicable" exit.

DAVID COVERDALE — vocals
BERNIE MARSDEN — guitar
MICK MOODY — guitar
NEIL MURRAY — bass
JON LORD — Keyboards
DAVID DOWLE — drums

Gillan's British Glory Road tour kicks off at Guildford Civic on Sept 25 and takes in twenty five Concerts before drawing to a close at Hull City Hall on October 27... and tomorrow the world.

Researched & drawn by Pete Frame · Aug 1980

GILLAN #2

May 79 to now. First gigs were 3 days at the Marquee - July 10-12, followed by the Reading Festival in August. In Oct 79, embarked on 22 date UK tour to promote 'MR UNIVERSE' (Acrobat ACRO 3 · Oct 79), which returned Gillan to the top ten. Played nine more Uk gigs in March 80, then Loch Lomond & Reading festivals.

BERNIE TORME — guitar
MICK UNDERWOOD — drums
IAN GILLAN — vocals
COLIN TOWNS — keyboards
JOHN McCOY — bass

In May 1980, Gillan signed with Virgin. So far there have been two singles, 'Sleeping on the job'/'Higher and higher' (VS 355 · 6/6/80) and 'No easy way'/'Handles on her hips' & 'I might as well go home' (VS 362 · 26/7/80), and one album, 'GLORY ROAD' (V 2171 · 15/8/80), which entered the album chart at #3 in its first week of release. (The initial run of 15000 include a free album, 'FOR GILLAN FANS ONLY', containing previously unavailable material)

WHITESNAKE #3

July 79 to the present. Having done little for two years, Paice returned to his old mates, raising the ex-Their first live appearance was the Reading Festival on Aug 26. Toured heavily to promote the 'Ready an' willing' album (May 80) and made strong impact with a single, 'Fool for your loving'. Meanwhile, Deep Purple reunion rumours abounded.

DAVID COVERDALE — vocals
BERNIE MARSDEN — guitar
MICK MOODY — guitar
NEIL MURRAY — bass
JON LORD — keyboards
IAN PAICE — drums

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